4　　represented by the signal, wherein said issuance means issues said exchange certificate

5　　after the settlement processing means has settled the charge; and

6　　　　processing means which transmits the exchange certificate issued by the issuance

7　　means to the terminal or to another predetermined terminal and transmits the electronic

8　　asset, on the predetermined date and time, to the terminal to which the exchange

9　　certificate has been transmitted.

1　　　　4. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 3,

2　　wherein, in a case where the terminal is a portable mobile terminal, submission of an

3　　exchange certificate to the server and/or transmission of an electronic asset to the

4　　terminal that has submitted the exchange certificate are carried out by way of a stationary

5　　terminal which can exchange data with the terminal.

1　　　　5. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 3,

2　　wherein the exchange certificate comprises settlement information indicating that the

3　　charge billed to the electronic asset has already been settled, and status information

4　　indicating that the corresponding electronic asset has not yet been received.

1　　　　7. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6,

2　　wherein, in a case where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for the

3　　electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate even though the expiration date

4　　has nearly arrived, the processing means sends, to the terminal to which the exchange

5　　certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration date has nearly

6　　arrived.

3

8. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein, in a case where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for the electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate even when the expiration date has nearly arrived, the processing means issues to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted a request for downloading the electronic asset or forcibly transmits the electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate to the terminal.

9. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein the server has past-due processing means, and in the event that the exchange certificate still has not been exchanged for a corresponding electronic asset even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange certificate, the past-due processing means sends, to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration date has passed and a request for downloading the electronic asset, or forcedly transmits the electronic asset.

10. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein the past-due processing means issues to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted a request for deleting or invoking the expired exchange certificate.

11. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6 wherein, upon receipt of the message or the download request from the server, the terminal indicates, on a display section, the message or details of the download request

4

4   and/or details of the exchange certificate.

1   12. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6

2   wherein, upon receipt of the message or the download request from the server, the

3   terminal issues voice notification indicating receipt of the message or the download

4   request.

1   13. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6,

2   wherein, upon receipt of a request for deleting or invoking the expired exchange

3   certificate from the past-due processing means, the terminal deletes or invokes the

4   exchange certificate.

1   14. (amended) An electronic asset utilization system comprising:

2   a terminal which is connected to a communications network and outputs a signal

3   for requesting booking of a desired electronic asset; and

4   a server which is connected to the communications network and comprises

5   issuance means for issuing a receipt certificate verifying booking of a desired electronic

6   asset represented by the signal, processing means for transmitting the receipt certificate

7   issued by the issuance means to the terminal or to another predetermined terminal, and

8   settlement processing means for settling a charge billed to the electronic asset

9   corresponding to the receipt certificate, wherein,

10   in a case where the receipt certificate is submitted to the server by way of the

11   communications network, after the settlement processing means has settled the charge

12   billed to the electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate in accordance with

13	requirements described on the receipt certificate, the issuance means issues the electronic
14	asset corresponding to the receipt certificate and the processing means transmits the
15	electronic asset to the terminal that has submitted the receipt certificate.

1	16. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 14,
2	wherein the receipt certificate contains information about the booked electronic asset and
3	information about the receipt certificate.

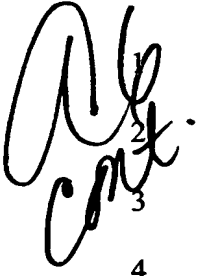|	
1	17. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 16,
2	wherein an expiration date is set for the receipt certificate such that the electronic asset
3	can be received before its expiration.

Please cancel claim 20 without prejudice.

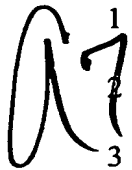|	
1	22. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 1,
2	wherein the server has electronic asset status management means for managing the date
3	and the time of issuance of the electronic asset, the effective term of the electronic asset,
4	whether there is the exchange certificate or not, and the effective term of the exchange
5	certificate,
6	wherein the electronic asset is issued by the issuance means, and
7	wherein the exchange certificate is managed correspondingly to the electronic
8	asset.

1	23. (amended) An electronic asset utilization method using an electronic asset

2   utilization system having a terminal connected to a communications network and a server

3   connected to the communications network, the method comprising:

4   an issuance step of issuing an exchange certificate verifying a user's right to

5   receive an electronic asset,

6   an exchange step of exchanging the exchange certificate for electronic asset

7   corresponding to the exchange certificate;

8   an instruction step of instructing the server to transmit a desired electronic asset

9   on a predetermined date and time; and

10   an electronic asset transmission step of transmitting the desired electronic asset

11   to the terminal or to another predetermined terminal on the predetermined date and time,

12   in accordance with the instruction.

24. (amended) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 23,

further comprising:

a settlement step of settling a charge billed to the electronic asset instructed in the

4   instruction step; and

5   an exchange certificate transmission step of transmitting to the terminal or

6   another predetermined terminal the exchange certificate issued in the issuance step,

7   wherein in the electronic asset transmission step the electronic asset is transmitted to the

8   terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted.

1   26. (amended) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 25,

2   wherein, in a case where the terminal is a portable mobile terminal, in the exchange

3   certificate submission step and/or the electronic asset transmission step submission of

4   an exchange certificate and/or transmission of the electronic asset are carried out by way

5   of a stationary terminal which is connected to the communications network, can

6   exchange data with the terminal.

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1   30. (amended) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 29,

2   further comprising a download request step or a forcibly transmit step of, in a case where

3   the exchange certificate still has not been exchanged for the electronic asset

4   corresponding to the exchange certificate even when the expiration date is close at hand,

5   issuing to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted a request

6   for downloading the electronic asset or forcibly transmitting the electronic asset

7   corresponding to the exchange certificate to the terminal.

Please cancel claims 31 and 32 without prejudice.

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1   38. (amended) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in any one of

2   claims 23, 24, 25, and 26, further comprising a retransmission step of, in an event that

3   transmission of the issued electronic asset, exchange certificate, or receipt certificate has

4   failed in the electronic asset transmission step, the electronic asset forced transmission

5   step, the exchange certificate transmission step, or the receipt certificate transmission

6   step, retransmitting the electronic asset, the exchange certificate, or the receipt certificate.

1   39. (amended) A server which is connected to a terminal by way of a

2   communications network and which transmits a desired electronic asset to the terminal

3   or another predetermined terminal on a predetermined date and time in accordance with

4   an instruction signal issued from the terminal for transmitting the desired electronic asset

5   on the predetermined date and time, said server comprising issuance means which, after

6   the settlement processing means has settled the charge, issues an exchange certificate

7   verifying a user's right to receive the electronic asset, and which also issues the electronic

8   asset corresponding to an exchange certificate.

1   40. (amended) The server as defined in claim 39, further comprising:

2   settlement processing means for settling a charge billed to the electronic asset

3   represented by the signal; and

4   processing means which transmits to the terminal or another predetermined

5   terminal the exchange certificate issued by the issuance means and transmits the

6   electronic asset, on the predetermined date and time, to the terminal to which the

7   exchange certificate has been transmitted.

1   41. (amended) A server connected to a terminal by way of a communications

2   network, the server comprising:

3   settlement processing means for settling a charge billed to a desired electronic

4   asset represented by the signal, in accordance with a request signal issued by the terminal

5   for purchasing the electronic asset;

6   issuance means for issuing an exchange certificate capable of being exchanged

7   for the electronic asset, and also for issuing the electronic asset corresponding to the

8   exchange certificate after the settlement processing means has settled the charge; and

9   processing means for transmitting the exchange certificate issued by the issuance

10   means to the terminal or another predetermined terminal, wherein,

11   when an exchange certificate is submitted to the server by way of the

12   communications network, the processing means transmits, to the terminal that has

13   submitted the exchange certificate, an electronic asset corresponding to the exchange

14   certificate.

1   42. (amended) A server connected to a terminal by way of a communications

2   network, the server comprising:

3   issuance means for issuing a receipt certificate verifying booking of a desired

4   electronic asset represented by the signal, in accordance with a request signal issued by

5   the terminal for booking the desired electronic asset;

6   processing means for transmitting to the terminal or another predetermined

7   terminal the receipt certificate issued by the issuance means;

8   settlement processing means for settling a charge billed to the electronic asset

9   corresponding to the receipt certificate, wherein,

10   in a case where the receipt certificate is submitted to the server by way of the

11   communications network, after the settlement processing means has settled the charge

12   billed to the electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate in accordance with

13   requirements described on the receipt certificate, the issuance means issues the electronic

14   asset corresponding to the receipt certificate and the processing means transmits the

15   electronic asset to the terminal that has submitted the receipt certificate.

1   43. (amended) A server apparatus for use with an electronic asset utilization

2   system comprising:

3   issuance means which issues an exchange certificate verifying a user's right to

10

4   receive the electronic asset, and which also issues an electronic asset corresponding to

5   the exchange certificate;

6   a terminal which is connected to a communications network and outputs a signal

7   for instructing transmission of a desired electronic asset on a predetermined date and

8   time; and

9   a server which is connected to the communications network and transmits the

10   desired electronic asset to the terminal or another predetermined terminal on the

11   predetermined date and time.

1   44. (amended) The server apparatus as defined in claim 43, wherein the server

2   apparatus comprises

3   settlement processing means for settling a charge billed to the electronic asset

4   represented by the signal, wherein said issuance means issues the exchange certificate

5   after the settlement processing means has settled the charge; and

6   processing means which transmits to the terminal or another predetermined

7   terminal the exchange certificate issued by the issuance means and transmits the

8   electronic asset, on the predetermined date and time, to the terminal to which the

9   exchange certificate has been transmitted.

1   46. (amended) A server apparatus for use with an electronic asset utilization

2   system comprising:

3   a terminal which is connected to a communications network and outputs a signal

4   for requesting booking of a desired electronic asset; and

5   a server which is connected to the communications network and comprises

6   issuance means for issuing a receipt certificate verifying booking of a desired electronic

7   asset represented by the signal, processing means for transmitting to the terminal or

8   another predetermined terminal the receipt certificate issued by the issuance means, and

9   settlement processing means for settling a charge billed to the electronic asset

10   corresponding to the receipt certificate, wherein,

11   in a case where the receipt certificate is submitted to the server by way of the

12   communications network, after the settlement processing means has settled the charge

13   billed to the electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate in accordance with

14   requirements described on the receipt certificate, the issuance means issues the electronic

15   asset corresponding to the receipt certificate and the processing means transmits the

16   electronic asset to the terminal that has submitted the receipt certificate.

1   47.   (amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is

2   recorded a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization

3   method as defined in any one of claims 23 through 26, 33, and 34.

1   48.   (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6,

2   wherein, in a case where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for the

3   electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate even when the expiration date

4   has nearly arrived, the processing means sends, to the terminal to which the exchange

5   certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration date has nearly

6   arrived, and

7   in a case where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for the

8   electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate even when the expiration date

9   is imminent, the processing means issues to the terminal to which the exchange

10   certificate has been transmitted a request for downloading the electronic asset or forcibly

11   transmits the electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate to the terminal.

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1   53. (amended) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 36,

2   further comprising third message sending step for sending to the terminal to which the

3   receipt certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration date has

4   nearly arrived, in a case where the receipt certificate has not yet been exchanged for the

5   electronic asset corresponding to the receipt certificate even when the expiration date has

6   nearly arrived.

Please add the following new claims:

1   54. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 2, wherein

2   the exchange certificate comprises settlement information indicating that the charge

3   billed to the electronic asset has already been settled, and status information indicating

4   that the corresponding electronic asset has not yet been received.

1   55. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 7, wherein,

2   in a case where the exchange certificate has not yet been exchanged for the electronic

3   asset corresponding to the exchange certificate even when the expiration date has nearly

4   arrived, the processing means issues to the terminal to which the exchange certificate has

5   been transmitted a request for downloading the electronic asset or forcibly transmits the

6   electronic asset corresponding to the exchange certificate to the terminal.

1   56. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 28 further

13

2 comprising a second message transmission step of transmitting, to the terminal to which

3 the exchange certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration

4 date has passed in the event that the exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for

5 a corresponding electronic asset even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange

6 certificate; a download request step of issuing, to the terminal to which the exchange

7 certificate has been transmitted, a request for downloading the electronic asset in the

8 event that the exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for a corresponding

9 electronic asset even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange certificate; or an

10 electronic asset forced transmission step of forcedly transmitting the electronic asset to

11 the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted in the event that the

12 exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for a corresponding electronic asset

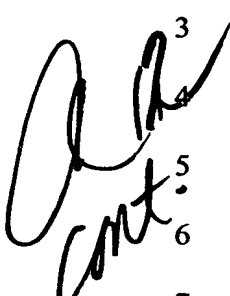13 even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange certificate.

1 57. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 56, further

2 comprising an exchange certificate deletion/invocation request step of issuing to the

3 terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted a request for deleting or

4 invoking the expired exchange certificate.

1 58. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 57, further

2 comprising a retransmission step of retransmitting the electronic asset, the exchange

3 certificate, or the receipt certificate, said retransmission step activated in the event that

4 transmission of the issued electronic asset, exchange certificate, or receipt certificate has

5 failed in the electronic asset transmission step, the electronic asset forced transmission

6 step, the exchange certificate transmission step, or the receipt certificate transmission

14

7   step.

1   59. (new) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is recorded

2   a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization method as

3   defined in claim 58.

1   60. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 29, further

2   comprising a second message transmission step of transmitting, to the terminal to which

3   the exchange certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration

4   date has passed in the event that the exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for

5   a corresponding electronic asset even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange

6   certificate; a download request step of issuing, to the terminal to which the exchange

7   certificate has been transmitted, a request for downloading the electronic asset in the

8   event that the exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for a corresponding

9   electronic asset even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange certificate; or an

10   electronic asset forced transmission step of forcedly transmitting the electronic asset to

11   the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted in the event that the

12   exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for a corresponding electronic asset

13   even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange certificate.

1   61. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 60, further

2   comprising an exchange certificate deletion/invocation request step of issuing to the

3   terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted a request for deleting or

4   invoking the expired exchange certificate.

15

1   62. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 61, further

2 comprising a retransmission step of retransmitting the electronic asset, the exchange

3 certificate, or the receipt certificate, said retransmission step activated in the event that

4 transmission of the issued electronic asset, exchange certificate, or receipt certificate has

5 failed in the electronic asset transmission step, the electronic asset forced transmission

6 step, the exchange certificate transmission step, or the receipt certificate transmission
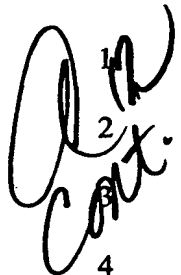
7 step.

1   63. (new) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is recorded

2 a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization method as

3 defined in claim 62.

1   64. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 30, further

2 comprising a second message transmission step of transmitting, to the terminal to which

3 the exchange certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that the expiration

4 date has passed in the event that the exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for

5 a corresponding electronic asset even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange

6 certificate; a download request step of issuing, to the terminal to which the exchange

7 certificate has been transmitted, a request for downloading the electronic asset in the

8 event that the exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for a corresponding

9 electronic asset even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange certificate; or an

10 electronic asset forced transmission step of forcedly transmitting the electronic asset to

11 the terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted in the event that the

16

12 exchange certificate has still not been exchanged for a corresponding electronic asset

13 even after lapse of the expiration date of the exchange certificate.

1   65. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 64, further

2 comprising an exchange certificate deletion/invocation request step of issuing to the

3 terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted a request for deleting or
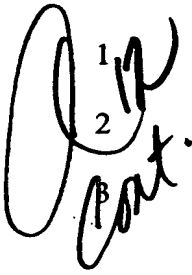
4 invoking the expired exchange certificate.

1   66. (new) The electronic asset utilization method as defined in claim 65, further

2 comprising a retransmission step of retransmitting the electronic asset, the exchange

3 certificate, or the receipt certificate, said retransmission step activated in the event that

4 transmission of the issued electronic asset, exchange certificate, or receipt certificate has

5 failed in the electronic asset transmission step, the electronic asset forced transmission

6 step, the exchange certificate transmission step, or the receipt certificate transmission

7 step.

1   67. (new) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is recorded

2 a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization method as

3 defined in claim 66.

1   68. (new) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is recorded

2 a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization method as

3 defined in claim 27.

1   69. (new) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is recorded

2   a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization method as

3   defined in claim 29.

1   70. (new) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is recorded

2   a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization method as
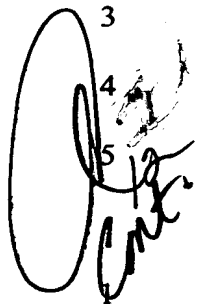
3   defined in claim 27.

1   71. (new) A computer-readable recording medium on which there is recorded

2   a program for causing a computer to execute an electronic asset utilization method as

3   defined in claim 37.

1   72. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 6, wherein

2   the server has past-due processing means, and in the event that the exchange certificate

3   still has not been exchanged for a corresponding electronic asset even after lapse of the

4   expiration date of the exchange certificate, the past-due processing means sends, to the

5   terminal to which the exchange certificate has been transmitted, a message indicating that

6   the expiration date has passed and a request for downloading the electronic asset, or

7   forcedly transmits the electronic asset.

1   73. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 72, wherein

2   the past-due processing means issues to the terminal to which the exchange certificate

3   has been transmitted a request for deleting or invoking the expired exchange certificate.

18

1   74. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 73,
2   wherein, upon receipt of the message or the download request from the server, the
3   terminal indicates, on a display section, the message or details of the download request
4   and/or details of the exchange certificate.

1   75. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 74, wherein
2   the server has retransmission processing means, and, in the event that transmission of an
3   electronic asset, an exchange certificate, or a receipt certificate has failed, the
4   retransmission processing means retransmits the electronic asset, the exchange
5   certificate, or the receipt certificate.

     76. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 75, wherein
2   the server has electronic asset status management means for managing the status of the
3   electronic asset issued by the issuance means.

1   77. (amended) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 76,
2   wherein the server has electronic asset status management means for managing the status
3   of the electronic asset issued by the issuance means.

1   78. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 7, wherein
2   the past-due processing means issues to the terminal to which the exchange certificate
3   has been transmitted a request for deleting or invoking the expired exchange certificate.

1   79. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 78, wherein,

19

2	upon receipt of a request for deleting or invoking the expired exchange certificate from
3	the past-due processing means, the terminal deletes or invokes the exchange certificate.

1	80. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 7, wherein,
2	upon receipt of the message or the download request from the server, the terminal
3	indicates, on a display section, the message or details of the download request and/or
4	details of the exchange certificate.

1	81. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 7, wherein,
2	upon receipt of the message or the download request from the server, the terminal issues
3	voice notification indicating receipt of the message or the download request.

1	82. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 1, wherein
2	the server has retransmission processing means, and, in the event that transmission of an
3	electronic asset, an exchange certificate, or a receipt certificate has failed, the
4	retransmission processing means retransmits the electronic asset, the exchange
5	certificate, or the receipt certificate.

1	83. (new) The electronic asset utilization system as defined in claim 1, wherein
2	the server has electronic asset status management means for managing the status of the
3	electronic asset issued by the issuance means.